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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 APRIL 1987

Israel

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has sent a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres "expressing Soviet willingness in principle" to participate in an international conference on the Middle East and to improve political relations with Israel, *Hadashot* disclosed. The message was conveyed during Peres' 7 April meeting with Soviet representatives Karen Brutents and Aleksandr Zotov in Rome, the paper noted. Jerusalem radio said a blackout was imposed on the contents of the talks, but reported that Peres called the discussion "very serious." "This is merely the beginning, and should not be overrated," the foreign minister added.

Soviet representative Brutents commented on a possible international conference, saying "Israel cannot speak with all its neighbors; somebody must lead it to this," *Davar* reported. Brutents also felt that in the end Israel would have to speak with the PLO. "I hope this is the beginning of a process, but the difficulties still remain. It is now up to Israel to take steps forward." he said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq claimed to have foiled the start of Iran's "Karbala'-8" offensive as well as a fresh attack launched on 8 April, INA reported. The new attack, announced by Tehran radio, was made west of Fish Lake. IRNA said that the lake is under Iran's "full control," and that Iraqi attempts to retake positions failed. But according to a 7 April Iraqi military communique carried by INA, "fierce battles" were waged and "a great part" of Iran's foothold was purged. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi military spokesman announced that two Iranian F-5's were downed in the III Army Corps sector on 7 April. IRNA, citing an Iranian military source, denied the aircraft were shot down.

Egyptian Elections

Elections for the People's Assembly are expected to be repeated for approximately 50 percent of the seats allocated to independent candidates, a MENA report disclosed. Preliminary results received by the Ministry of Interior still show the National Democratic Party (NDP) in the lead, taking 75 to 80 percent of the valid votes counted thus far, MENA reported.

Rioting provoked by supporters of an independent candidate led to the arrest of 80 people in Kafr al-Dawwar, AFP reported citing *Al-Ahram*. Rioters stoned the local NDP offices and the town hall and vandalized vehicles, the paper said.

Lebanon

Syrian forces deployed around Shatila in a further effort to ease the Palestinian camps situation, Beirut radio reported. AFP noted the Syrians set up four observation posts and placed double security cordons around the four entrances to the camp to avoid clashes between Amal and Palestinian fighters.

The agency also reported that five trucks laden with arms for Amal militia, escorted by 20 Syrian troops, passed through Sidon on 8 April after having been turned back at the city's gates by the Popular Liberation Army the previous day. AFP noted that this was the first time since Israel's invasion of Lebanon that Syrian troops had entered Sidon.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced changes in the military service system during a 7 April speech carried by Tripoli television. As of this year, military service will be set for a specified period ranging from a week to several months, contrary to systems in other countries which require 2 to 3 years of service, the Libyan leader asserted. At the end of their term, the persons serving will be rotated, keeping the same number constantly on duty Al-Qadhdhafi explained.

Turning to the Gulf conflict, Al-Qadhdhafi underscored that Libya will make "effective moves to end this war," stressing that "nobody in the world wants this war to end except us." Affirming his stand with both Iraq and Iran, the Libyan leader urged the two states to unite and help Libya fight the common enemies of Zionism and imperialism.

Chadian Conflict

A Chadian military communique carried by Ndjamena radio reported that Libyan aircraft resumed bombing Ouadi Doum with "unprecedented intensity" on 7 April. Chadian forces retaliated and shot down a MiG-21 aircraft, the communique added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Pakistan, Iran 'Hampering' Return of Refugees

LD050745 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 4, BAKHTAR — Since the continuation of the process of the return of the Afghan refugees does not conform to the interests of reaction and imperialism, the latter have persistently strived to prevent the return of the emigres to their homeland by using various means.

This was said by a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA to a BAKHTAR reporter concerning the position adopted by Pakistani and Iranian authorities vis-a-vis the process of the return of emigres.

Reaction and imperialism, by misusing the Afghan refugees as a means of intervention against our country, want to paint a false picture about the dissatisfaction of the people towards the revolutionary transformations in the DRA. They also take advantage of the presence of these refugees, for continuation of their armed intervention against the DRA and for receiving huge monetary and military assistance.

There are adequate evidences to prove that the Pakistani and Iranian authorities are resorting to every means for hampering the return of our compatriots to their homeland, the spokesman went on to say.

For instance, two groups, each comprising 2000 and 3000 Afghan refugees who wanted to return home through the frontier regions in February and March respectively were not allowed to do so by the Pakistani authorities. Similarly, the Iranian authorities prevented the return of 4000 and 6000 families who wanted to return home from the cities of Birjand and Meshha [name as received] in February and March. There also exist long lists of Afghan refugees at DRA diplomatic missions in Islamabad and Tehran as well as in the offices of the extraordinary Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation, who have showed their long-cherished desire to return home (?but) the Pakistani and Iranian authorities do not allow them to return.

The Pakistani and Iranian authorities have used many other means to frustrate the process of the return of the refugees. Their refusal to accept chartered flights for the transfer of the Afghan refugees to Afghanistan, the blockage of the road in frontier regions to the Afghan refugees, and the use of force and intimidation are only some of the means used for hampering the return of the Afghan refugees.

These hostile actions have been taken at a time when the DRA has striven hard to provide the objective grounds for the return of the Afghan refugees as well as to normalise its relations with the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran on the basis of peaceful coexistence. However, the latest measures of the DRA intended to bring about national reconciliation and cease-fire aimed at ending foreign intervention and the undeclared war are producing encouraging results.

Gross National Product Registers Growth

LD080753 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR — The Gross National Product of the country registered a growth of 3.3 per cent in the last Afghan year ended on March 20, 1987 and is estimated at Afs [Afghanis] 155.3 billion, while the national income had increased by 3.7 per cent.

This was said by Mohammad Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the State Planning Committee of the DRA, in the interview with daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*, organ of the PDPA CC.

Agriculture, cattle breeding, and forestry registered a growth of 1.6 per cent in the last Afghan year. The plan in this respect was implemented by 97.7 percent.

The area under cultivation of perennial and seasonal crops was 3816.2 thousand hectares which amounted to a 99.4 per cent.

He further said that 45 agricultural cooperatives were newly set up last year and 11 defunct ones revived. Thus, the number of such cooperatives reached 486 with 74,550 members and a capital investment of Afs 36.5 million.

The gross product of state agricultural sector which attained a growth of 21 per cent over the previous year is estimated at Afs 158.9 million.

An area of 822 hectares was newly prepared for irrigation and the existing irrigation of 4,500 hectares was improved.

With a realization of 98.2 per cent of the plan and a 2.4 per cent growth over previous year, the gross value of production in industrial mines and power sectors is estimated at Afs 36.9 billion, which constitutes 23.8 per cent of the Gross National Product. Industrial production in state and mixed sectors is estimated at Afs 176 billion or 2.4 per cent over the preceeding year.

Definite measures were taken last year to expand the activities of the private sector and broadening its investment. The activities of private enterpreneurs were co-ordinated and promoted with necessary economic and technical advice and legal amenities.

The establishment of 115 small-scale and medium projects with a total capital of Afs 1600 million were endorsed last year which when commissioned would provide 3000 jobs.

The government took specific measures last year for holding the price line through distributing coupon goods in a number of provinces. Supply of flour, wheat, tea, soap, edible oil, fuel wood etc at fixed prices, as well as free distribution of Soviet aided consumer goods to needy people which resulted in relative stabilisation of prices in the country [as received].

General education campaign against illiteracy, vocational education, cultural, and health services expanded last year.

The number of literacy courses rose to 17.5 thousand and their enrollment to 367.5 thousand. 69.9 thousand completed the courses last year. The number of school students enrolled increased by 2.3 per cent and reached 703 thousand.

In all, 1800 persons were sent abroad for acquiring higher, professional education, and expertise. Out of them 1600 have been sent to the Soviet Union. 1400 persons completed their education abroad and returned home last year.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Meets Gandhi 6 Apr

BK070151 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, now on a private visit to India, called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday. According to official sources in Dhaka, the two prime ministers during their half hour meeting discussed among other things matters of bilateral interest. Mr Gandhi also requested his Bangladeshi counterpart to convey his warm regards and best wishes to President Ershad. Mr Chowdhury is expected to return home today.

ASLV Technology Good Despite Mission Failure

BK070346 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Preliminary reports on the launching of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle — ASLV — have shown that a number of new technologies adopted by the Indian space scientists were successful despite the failure of the mission itself. According to the Indian Space Research Organization, the analysis carried out by the technical expert groups found that the crucial strap-on booster technology performed fully as expected. The failure of the first-stage motor to ignite on receiving ignition command from the on-board computer is said to be the main cause for the ASLV's premature descent.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat Area; 2 Killed

BK080304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 apr 87

[Text] In Gujarat, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Wadi and other areas in Baroda following violence last night. Two persons were stabbed to death and several others injured. Police fired one round to disperse a stone-throwing mob indulging in arson. The situation is now reported to be under control.

In Savar Kundla in Bhavnagar District, curfew was imposed from midnight last night for 12 hours following some incidents of stone throwing on a procession yesterday evening.

'Dreaded Terrorist' Arrested; AISSF Members Held

BK071246 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] In Punjab, a dreaded terrorist — Malkiat Singh alias Uday Singh — has been arrested by the Amritsar police. According to the state chief, Mr Ribeiro, Malkiat Singh is one of the five top organizers of terrorism in the state. Meanwhile, some more members of the All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF] have been arrested for indulging in arson and intimidation. Mr Ribeiro said the total arrests now exceed 300. He said police and paramilitary forces are keeping a strict vigil on the activities of such elements.

AFP Reports Incidents by Sikh Militants

BK071314 Hong Kong AFP in English 1144 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Amritsar, India, April 7 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh militants shot dead five people, including two women, injured two others, and torched a liquor stall overnight in the Punjab, police said Tuesday.

Sikhs shot dead a Hindu college lecturer Jhalman Singh and his sister Harbhajan Kaur while they were asleep in their house in Garshankar village of the state's Hoshiarpur District, police said.

Three other Sikh militant suspects killed middle-aged couple and shot and injured their son in Majhpur village in this northern district overnight Monday. The killers escaped with 800 dollars. The dead husband was identified as Sucha Singh. 50, and his wife Bhajan Kaur. Their injured son, Lakhminder Singh, was hospitalised with gunshot wounds, police said.

A Hindu school teacher was also shot and seriously injured in a separate attack by Sikhs in the state's Hoshiarpur District.

Sikhs also shot dead a liquor salesman Gian Singh and torched his stall in Gurdaspur District Monday in the continuing militant campaign in Punjab against sales of liquor and cigarettes, which are banned by Sikhism, police said. Punjab police have been ordered to shoot on sight anyone attacking liquor shops in a bid to prevent further closures.

At least 400 liquor shops have reportedly closed down in this northern state where more than 200 people, mostly Hindus, have been killed this year in the Sikh campaign for a separate homeland.

Cabinet Discusses Law, Order Situation

BK041146 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The Federal Cabinet meeting in Rawalpindi today under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, discussed the law and order situation in the country. It took note of the persistent acts subjecting innocent civilian population of the tribal areas to border raids, subversion, and bombing. In this context, the Cabinet gave appropriate directions to the agencies concerned. The unfortunate incident of the explosion at the public meeting of the Jamiet-e-Ahle Hadith in Lahore recently in which precious lives were lost also came under discussion and measures taken to meet the situation were explained.

The Cabinet noted that every possible effort was already being made to apprehend the culprits. It was directed that necessary steps should be taken to obviate recurrence of such events in future. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Begins Official Visit to UK

For coverage of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's official visit to the United Kingdom, including his meetings with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, see the United Kingdom section of the 7 April Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Zain Noorani on Problems With DRA, India

PM071121 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 1 Apr 87 p 5

[Undated interview with Zain Noorani, Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, by Bo Kage Carlsson: "The Bombs Do Not Frighten Us"]

[Text] Islamabad — "The bombing of our border villages is an attempt to force us into signing a peace agreement we do not like; but the Soviet Union will not succeed. We are firm on this."

Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, was speaking with great emphasis. He is upset about the bombing raids which have claimed over 200 lives in the last few weeks. But he stressed that Pakistan does not intend to let the Afghan resistance movement down.

"If the Russians imagine something else, they are wrong. If they do, they have mistaken the Pakistani people's character. The more they pressure us, the more determined we become to adhere to our principles, as we have up to now.

"This is a position that has the support of 122 nations of the world. These are the UN states who have voted to condemn the Soviet invasion."

Noorani clearly did not like my next question, which dealt with popular discontent in Pakistan over the fact that the war has now become both a threat in the form of bombing raids on Pakistan's borders and a burden in the form of over 3 million refugees, whose camps are tending to become increasingly permanent.

"Last year the people's elected representatives backed Pakistan's Afghanistan policy almost unanimously," he replied curtly.

Noorani did not seem to be bothered by the fact that there is a heated discussion going on in the country about what the people's representatives in the National Assembly are really like. Nor is he worried that every day there is clear evidence of dissatisfaction in the country over the fact that Pakistan has been drawn into the conflict.

"However, we are optimistic about reaching a negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan question," Noorani said.

But he conceded that there are some problems remaining. He was unwilling to say how great the disagreements are, but hinted that in the latest round of talks in Geneva both sides have made some progress.

"In parallel with the Geneva talks between the Kabul Government and the Pakistan Government, which are indirect talks because we do not recognize the Kabul regime, we are also holding direct talks with the Soviet Union," he said.

"It is our conviction that the key to progress in the Afghanistan talks lies in Moscow.

"Najibullah is where he is because the Soviet Union has put him there, not because he would be the Afghan people's choice.

"He is backed by 120,000 Soviet soldiers."

During our conversation it emerged that the major problems are the time table for the Soviet Union's pullout, where the gulf between the two sides is still great, and the position of the present Kabul regime after an agreement.

"The Russians insist that they want 18 months to leave the country. We have said that they can have 3 to 4 months, but it is clear that if it would facilitate a settlement they could have 1 or 2 months more to be on their way.

"As far as the government of national reconciliation for Afghanistan is concerned, the Soviet Union wants it to be built up around Najibullah. His group is to be a sort of main component.

"This will never succeed. The quicker the Soviet Union realizes this, the closer we are to a settlement."

Noorani did not agree that the Afghanistan question is part of a larger issue in which the United States is aiming at building up its military positions in the region to protect the oil reserves in the Persian Gulf.

"We have given neither bases nor other rights to the Americans," Noorani said.

He rejected persistent reports of U.S. military installations in several isolated places in northern and western Pakistan.

"We are a nonaligned country and a member of the Nonaligned Movement, but we have warm relations with the United States.

"There have been short periods of misunderstanding between Pakistan and the United States, but these have now been cleared up."

Here, Noorani was referring to the U.S. threat to cut back its aid program again if the fact that Pakistan had a nuclear warhead were to emerge. Noorani explicitly denied that Pakistan has a bomb, and he said that his country is ready to sign the nonproliferation agreement as soon as India does so.

According to Noorani, alongside Afghanistan is the problem of India, causing Pakistan the most worry. The countries have fought three wars and there are often incidents along the long land border, particularly along the section through Kashmir where the border has still not been fixed.

"The Indian people has never accepted the existence of Pakistan," Noorani said.

"We on the other hand are prepared to attach to India an importance in the region proportional to its size.

"However, in return we expect to be treated as a sovereign country. That is all we are asking of India.

"We never question India's right to buy arms. Why should we then not be allowed to buy arms where and when we want to?" Noorani asked indignantly.

'Major Part' of Border Troop Pullout Completed

BK071530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Pakistan and India have completed a major part of the troop withdrawal from Rajasthan, Sind, and Rann of Kutch sectors. A Foreign Office spokesman told Radio Pakistan's representative in Islamabad today that the troop pullout on both sides of the border began on the 17th of last month under an agreement signed in Islamabad. The troop pullout has followed the program drawn up by the two sides to de-escalate tension along the border.

The spokesman said that the troops have returned to their peacetime locations within the fixed time frame.

U.S. Reports on Arms Supply to Iran 'Rejected'

BK080226 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has rejected the report carried by NBC television that American arms were supplied to Iran through Pakistan last month. The spokesman said that Pakistan strictly adheres to the policy of neutrality and it is not involved in the supply of weapons to either Iraq or Iran.

Paper Wants 'Credible' Retaliation for Afghan Raids

BK031101 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 27 Mar p 4

[Editorial: "Afghan Ambiguities"]

[Text] It has happened before and it has happened again. Afghan warplanes have again conducted bombing raids inside Pakistan territory. It appears that the severity of raids is rising along with the mounting casualty figures.

There are imponderables which add to the ambiguities of the situation. Pakistan confirms that there have been raids; Afghan authorities in Kabul deny them. Pakistan's position and response to the air raids remains unclear. During early February the Prime Minister (who also holds the portfolio of defence) stated that future Afghan raids will be intercepted and punished. While the nation was waiting (in vain as it turned out) for a befitting response to Afghan attacks, there have been reports that Pakistan does not have the capability to intercept Afghan aircraft which bomb areas so close to the border. Voice of America reports, quoting a Pakistani official, have said that Pakistan cannot afford to purchase an air-borne early warning radar system that can check air strikes along the border. This is hard to believe since such a large chunk of the Federal budget is being spent on defence.

Meanwhile, the raids continue with impunity and no planes are being downed. Pakistan's weak response is further encouraging and intensifying Afghan raids. What has suffered during all these forays is the principle of self-defence. No independent nation should allow its territorial sovereignty to be breached at will by aggressive neighbours. To begin with, the Pakistan Government should ensure that credible retaliatory measures are taken to combat the violent trespass of its borders.

SRI LANKA

Government To Investigate Hospital Shelling

BK071348 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, April 7 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government is to appoint a commission to investigate reports that government forces shelled a hospital in Tamil-dominated Jaffna, killing civilians, reliable sources here said.

Government representatives had approached several retired Supreme Court judges to head the commission, which would investigate allegations that security forces fired mortars at the Jaffna hospital, killing several civilians, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Sources said the conditions of the government probe and the names of the commission members would be announced soon.

Delhi Reports on 'Continuing Clashes' in Jaffna

BK071604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Reports from Colombo say at least nine persons, including two Army personnel, were killed and four injured in continuing clashes between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil militants in the northern Jaffna peninsula yesterday. Seven people were killed when security forces shelled civilian areas in Velvettiturrai. Two soldiers died when Tamil militants reportedly beat back an attempt by security forces to come out of their camp.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan envoy in India, who had gone to Colombo for discussions, has left for New Delhi with a message from President Jayewardene.

Official Urges Suspended Military Operations

BK070340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Sri Lanka's rural industries minister, Mr S. Thondaman, has urged the government to suspend military operation for a period of 10 days. He said such a unilateral action by Sri Lanka may enable India to set in motion the negotiating process. The Tamil militants should also desist from violence during this period. The minister was speaking at a farewell function for the deputy high commissioner of India, Mr K.R. Sinha, yesterday. Mr Thondaman said India's active mediation is crucial in finding a solution to the ethnic problem.

Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Arrives 6 Apr

NC061010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Our correspondent reports that Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Mr Obed Asamoah arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-ranking political, economic, and military delegation. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati and Captain Malekzadegan, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy.

This delegation, which includes the Ghanaian fuel and power secretary, the Navy commander, and the Ghanaian Leadership Council's adviser on energy affairs, has come to Tehran to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation.

After his arrival in Tehran, Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Mr Obed Asamoah told our correspondent: This is my second visit to Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. I am happy that while we are here we will be able to discuss and exchange views on the two countries' past agreements. Referring to the importance of expanding bilateral relations and cooperation in order to continue the struggle against imperialism, he said: We will try to exchange views both now and in the future because both Iran and Ghana are anti-imperialist countries. He pointed out: We have realized that Iran is the best struggler against imperialism; that is why we are cooperating with it.

Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati then spoke to our correspondent on Obed Asamoah's visit to Iran. We invite you to listen to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, in view of the priority that the Islamic Republic of Iran grants to its relations with African countries, please discuss the political, (?military), and economic objectives of this visit.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Almighty. Our relations with the revolutionary nation of Ghana have expanded continuously since the Islamic Revolution. During recent years, delegations from both countries have exchanged visits. I visited Ghana last year, and now his excellency the Ghanaian foreign secretary has come here at the head of a high-ranking delegation in response to an invitation from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our relations with Ghana are expanding in various fields, both as far as bilateral cooperation is concerned and in relation to international problems. During this period we have had continuous close cooperation on the international scene, both in the Nonaligned Movement and in the United Nations, as well as in other organizations. In view of the priority we grant to the expansion of relations with Third World countries, we hope that we can further extend our relations with the revolutionary Ghanaian nation in the various political, economic, and commercial fields. We attach importance to this visit because of the special situation of Third World nations, especially during recent months. In view of the developments in the Nonaligned Movement and in the Third World, contacts between the two important members of the Nonaligned Movement can have a positive and constructive impact on this movement's fate. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD061449 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA — Visiting Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Obed Asamoah held talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on issues of mutual interest, expansion of Tehran-Accra relations and international issues, here Monday.

During the meeting, also attended by the Ghanaian oil minister and Navy commander, Mr Asamoah said that he was here to reiterate the solidarity of his government and his people with the Iranian nation and the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He also said that Ghana would take measures to open its embassy in Tehran next year.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, Asamoah pledged Ghana's support for the Islamic Republic and noted that imperialist countries have done all within their power to weaken the Islamic Revolution.

Commenting on the issue of Afghanistan, the Ghanaian foreign secretary voiced support for Iran's stance on solving the issue. He said that the withdrawal of occupiers from Afghanistan and the coming to power of a non-aligned and independent government there are among his country's viewpoints on the issue.

In response, Velayati said that the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to the expansion of ties with Third World and African countries. He also pledged Iran's support for the oppressed and revolutionary nations.

The Islamic Republic welcomes promotion of economic and political cooperation with Ghana, Velayati said.

He then outlined countless crimes perpetrated by the Iraqi regime against Iran, including its air raids on Iranian civilian areas and its repeated violation of international conventions. "The victory of the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi-imposed war will be in the interest of all regional people and supporters of peace and justice in the world," Velayati stated.

The Iraq Government which launched aggression on Iran has not yet quit its spirit of aggression, therefore if it finds another opportunity it will attack the Islamic Republic again, Velayati said noting that "Iran will continue its sacred defensive war until the elimination of the cause of aggression."

Prior to the meeting, the Ghanaian foreign secretary and his entourage visited Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, where they paid tribute to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution.

Confers With Culture Minister

LD061742 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 06 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA — Visiting Ghanaian Foreign Secretary Obed Asamoah conferred with Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi, here Monday.

Views were exchanged at the meeting on cultural and scientific exchanges between Iran and Ghana, including introduction of a

Persian language course at Ghana's universities, exchange of professors and students as well as coordination in research activities and educational planning.

The Ghanaian foreign minister arrived here Monday at the head of a political-economic delegation.

Discusses Oil Sales With Aqazadeh

LD061751 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] This afternoon Ghana's foreign affairs and fuel and power secretaries, and a number of high-ranking Ghanaian officials met with our Oil Minister Aqazadeh. Both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening and expanding bilateral political and commercial relations, and expressed their willingness to amend and continue the existing agreements on oil sales to Ghana.

According to our correspondent's report it was decided that the experts from the two countries should continue their discussions. At the end of the meeting it was decided that the framework for technical cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ghana should be studied by relevant experts.

Meets With Prime Minister Musavi

LD071311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Ghana's Foreign Affairs Secretary Mr Obed Asamoah met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi today. During this meeting, the prime minister, referring to the Iranian nation's deep sympathy toward the revolutionary nations of Africa, said: Although the two countries have different political geography [as heard] there are common political, cultural, and economic issues they share to expand cooperation. The prime minister added: During the sensitive period of nations' awakening, the Third World countries, more than ever before, need to understand each other more deeply and establish direct and organized links among themselves.

Concluding, the prime minister referred to the role played by religion in the steadfastness and victories of the Muslim nation of Iran against imperialism, and he stressed the need to expand relations between the two countries. He also expressed the hope that the two revolutionary states will further increase cooperation at the international level.

On the basis of this report, the Ghanian secretary for foreign affairs, while presenting a report on the successful trend of the cultural, political, and economic talks between the two countries' responsible officials, said: We hope that in view of the efforts taking place to expand both countries' relations, we will be able to settle our common affairs within the framework of annual meetings and economic and political agreements in the near future.

Confers With President Khamene'i

LD071321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] In a meeting with President Khamene'i this morning, Ghanaian Foreign Affairs Secretary Obed Asamoah conveyed to him a written message from the Ghanaian president.

During the meeting, which was also attended by our country's foreign minister and Navy commander and the Ghanaian oil minister, Navy commander, and the Iranian diplomatic envoy in Ghana, the Ghanaian foreign secretary first conveyed kind messages from his country's president and expressed willingness to expand relations and cooperation between Iran and Ghana. He then referred to overt plots hatched by world imperialism against progressive and revolutionary countries. He said: We have no doubt that the Iran-Iraq war was started by world imperialism. Its main aim is to destroy your Islamic Revolution.

Stressing the importance of unity and cooperation among progressive Third Wold countries, he praised the Iranian nation for its efforts to further free themselves from dependence on world powers.

The Ghanaian foreign secretary finally conveyed an invitation from his country's president to Khamene'i [to visit Ghana].

Then, thanking him for the warm greetings from the Ghanaian president and accepting his invitation, President Khamene'i praised Dr Nkrome, the Ghanaian revolutionary leader, as an outstanding personality. He said: We have a kindred spirit with African countries, especially the progressive ones. Thanks to the outstanding character of Mr Nkrome, we feel a greater sense of friendship. Promoting solidarity among Third World countries is part of our foreign policy.

Stressing the point that relying on the role of nations will be a factor in their success, the president said: It is a great experience for our revolution and all revolutionary countries to stand up to world imperialism and not deviate from their revolutionary policies.

Holds Talks With Commerce Minister

LD071403 Tehran IRNA in English 1303 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA — Commerce Minister Hassan Abedi-Ja'fari said Tuesday that Iran has reached self-sufficiency in production of some agricultural products and foodstuffs and that in some cases the surplus production is being exported. The increased agro yield is in line with Iran's efforts to shift its economy away from one based solely upon oil exports.

Speaking in a meeting with the visiting Ghanaian Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah, Abedi-Ja'fari said that Iran was ready to establish trade ties with Ghana in order to strengthen mutual friendly political, economic, and cultural relations. This is also in line with Iran's foreign trade policy of expanding direct commerical relations with Third World and non-aligned countries.

The commerce minister proposed that during the current visit, members of the Ghanaian delegation investigate, with Iranian Commerce Ministry experts, areas in which the two countries could promote such ties.

The Ghanaian foreign minister briefed Ja'fari on economic situation of his country and called for expansion of trade ties with Iran.

Asamoah heading a political-economic delegation arrived here Monday. The delegation includes Ghanaian oil minister and Navy commander.

So far, the Ghanaian delegation has conferred with Iranian Prime Minister Husayn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Ghanaian Naval Chief Meets Officials

LD061837 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 6, IRNA — "Iranian naval forces are the superior power of regional waterways," Navy Commander Captain Mohammad-Hoseyn Malekzadegan told his visiting Ghanaian counterpart in a meeting here Monday.

During the meeting Malekzadegan also said the Iranian Navy is ready to train Ghanaian naval experts. He said Iran is capable of training personnel of the regional naval forces on a par with that offered by the biggest military academies.

In reply, the Ghanaian commander called for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Ghanaian naval forces.

Meanwhile, visiting Ghanaian Navy commander met with the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Esma'il Sohrabi here Monday in which the two called for Tehran-Accra close cooperation in various fields.

Colonel Sohrabi also presented a memorial plaque to the Ghanaian commander.

Velayati Leaves for Geneva Arms Conference 8 Apr

NC080631 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran this morning to attend the Geneva disarmament conference. Before leaving Tehran he gave an interview to our correspondent and said: The disarmament conference is affiliated with the United Nations; and 40 countries, including Iran, are permanent members. He added: This conference meets annually in Geneva to discuss the arms race at the international level. Mr Velayati stated that the main goal of this conference is to halt the arms race, noting that there has been no appreciable progress in this regard. He said: As far as the interests of Third World and nonaligned countries are concerned, this conference has had no tangible, positive results; if agreement has been reached, it has actually benefited the superpowers, at the cost of impositions on Third World countries.

Our foreign minister than discussed the Islamic Republic's objectives and stands at this conference, saying: The Islamic Republic opposes any type of arms race or proliferation of diverse destructive weapons, which are inhuman and detrimental to mankind. We will also insist that agreement between the superpowers not be at the expense of other countries.

Continuing, Mr Velayati discussed Iraqi use of chemical weapons against civilians and military forces during the imposed war, describing Iraq's deployment of these weapons as a dangerous heresy. He said: A regime like that of Iraq is capable of flagrantly resorting to subversive acts against humanity and human principles. We have been reporting on this issue for approximately 3 years, and fortunately the true face of the Iraqi regime and its mentors has been greatly revealed to the world. Mr Velayati also said: The Iraqi regime's use of these weapons has been condemned several times in international arenas, and we will continue to give this issue the serious attention it deserves.

'Sources' Cite PRC as Most Important Arms Supplier

JN071540 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Apr 87 pp 3, 8

[Text] Informed sources have stressed to *Al-Ittihad* that the PRC has become the most important exporter of weapons and military equipment to Iran despite Iranian and PRC denials of arms supplies agreements. The sources pointed out that the PRC and Iran signed an agreement worth $1.6 billion on 15 May 1985, and that this agreement was followed by other similar agreements, the largest of which was in early 1986 estimated at $1.5 billion. These agreements included supplying Iran with Chinese-made weapons and equipment, including fighter planes, tanks, field artillery, rocket launchers, antiaircraft guns, antiaircraft surface-to-air missiles, and miscellaneous ammunition.

The sources revealed that the DPRK has played a role in this since the early eighties and is still playing a major and important role in supplying the Iranian forces with Soviet- or Chinese-made weapons and equipment. These sources affirmed that the arms shipment Iran received in the middle of last year enabled it to carry out the series of "Karbala'" attacks in late 1986.

These sources expect PRC-Iranian military cooperation to grow and expect that the Iranian forces will receive more arms this year. Based on information available on the extent of PRC military exports to Iran, the Iranian forces received the following equipment in 1986:

Eighteen fighter planes of the (Chengdu X-7 Jian Fan) type — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet MiG-21 — sometimes known as (J-7) and (F-7). Iran began to receive these in late 1986. It is thought that these planes are now ready for use in combat operations.

Sixty Type-59 tanks; 50 Type-77 armored personnel carriers — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet BTR-50 armored personnel carrier; several 122-and 130-mm field cannons; 14.5-mm, 23-mm, 37-mm, and 57-mm antiaircraft guns [no quantity given]; 180 antiarmor rocket launchers of the (Hong Kian-73) type — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet Sagger At-3

missile; 400 shoulder-borne antiaircraft rocket launchers of the (HN-5) type — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet SAM-7.

In mid-1986, Iran also received the following additional equipment:

One hundred and eighty Type-59 tanks — meaning that Iran has received approximately 440 of these tanks from 1985 to 1987; several (HQ-2) and (HN-5) antiaircraft missiles; several (HQ-73) antiarmor missiles; (HY-2) antiship missiles [no quantity given], which Iran has actually recently deployed.

The 1985 shipments included the following:

Twelve (Jian-6) fighter planes — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet MiG-19; 200 Type-59 combat tanks — the Chinese-built version of the Soviet T-54 sometimes known as the T-59; some 122-and 130-mm field cannons; various 107- and 122-mm rocket launchers; and antiaircraft missiles of the (Hong Ki-2) type, which is the Chinese-built version of the Soviet SAM-2 missile designed for use against planes flying at high altitudes and remote distances.

The recent reports on Chinese supplies of antiship missiles to Iran have confirmed reports on military cooperation between the two countries. These reports state that the PRC has supplied Iran with surface-to-surface missiles of the (Hi Yang-2) type, the Chinese version of the Soviet SS-N-2 Styx antiship missiles, which are ship-borne missiles. There is another Soviet type of this missile designed to be launched from mobile coastal pads and mounted on special trucks known as (SSC-3). The Chinese have built a local version of this missile launched from coastal pads. This type is officially known as (Hi Yang-4). However, it is usually referred to as the ship-borne (Hi Yang-2) or (Hy-2) type.

Economic Council Holds First Session in New Year

NC070722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] In its first session of 1366 [year starting on 21 March 1987] held yesterday afternoon, the Economic Council assessed economic decisions made in 1365 and reiterated that its policies will reflect its program seeking new conditions that will foster economic independence.

The Economic Council announced that the fight against inflation is a general duty, while pointing out that the government's support for the oppressed and low-income sectors will continue in the new year and that the need to supply staples to the people will continue to receive special attention, as industrial and agricultural products are increased.

The Central News Unit reports that the Economic Council agreed to invite tenders for the construction of the third section of the Shahr-e Kord-(Chaf) road, construction of a portion of the highway from Mashhad to Neyshabur, and the improvement of the Bandar 'Abbas-Rudan axis.

Musavi Details 'Karbala'-8' 'Brave Battles'

LD081303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] During this morning's Cabinet session, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps briefed the Council of Ministers on the latest reports on the victories of the combatants of Islam in the course of the "Karbala'-8" operations. Afterward, Oil Minister Aqazadeh presented a report to the Cabinet about drilling operations in the Caspian Sea.

At the conclusion of this session Prime Minister Musavi said: Had this readiness of our combatants and this awareness of our people of the need to continue the war existed during the month of Ramadan of the year 1361 [June-July 1983], today's victories along the fronts would have materialized after the victory of Khorramshahr. Under the existing circumstances, in which our warriors have delivered repeated blows to Saddam's defeated armed forces and created a suitable ground in the Shalamcheh sector, the popular volunteer forces should enthusiastically welcome the Corps of the Lord of the Era, may Allah hasten his glad advent, and the ground should be laid so the crushing blows of our combatants continue until the final destruction of the roots of oppression.

The prime minister added: The popular volunteers are expected to receive inspiration from the holy month of Ramadan and the Nights of Merit [the nights in Ramadan that coincide with Imam 'Ali's martyrdom and three nights of mourning] and make the best use of these opportunities to liberate the Muslim and trapped Iraqi nation from oppression by the Iraqi warmongering regime. Past war experience shows that being present on the front during the holy month of Ramadan is particularly valuable; I hope this will be well realized.

At the end of today's Cabinet meeting, the prime minister answered our correspondent's questions about the latest developments and reports concerning the "Karbala'-8" operations. We draw your attention to these questions:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Musavi, since the night before last, the fighters of Islam started new operations in the Shalamcheh region, called "Karbala'-8". Please give us the latest reports you have about these operations.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As it was reported this morning in the Cabinet meeting, the latest reports indicate advances and brave battles waged by our fighters. Of course, Saddam's regime has amassed a large number of forces in that region; but according to the reports that we have received from Iraqi POW's, in view of the fact that that region has been turned into a slaughterhouse for the Saddam regime, there is a great deal of opposition among personnel sent to that region. The morale of the forces of Saddam is low. It is natural that in view of the importance of the region and the fact that every step we take is of great importance from a psychological and military point of view, they have amassed a large number of forces and equipment in that region so that they can confront the situation. However, on the whole, our advances have broken the back of the military forces of Saddam. That seems to be the best spot for the complete destruction of Saddam's forces. This

is why we decided that operations should forcefully continue there. At the same time, we have maintained our ability to act along the length of the fronts. Fortunately, at the moment, Saddam's forces are beginning a downward spiral, while our forces are daily strengthening. I will make use of this opportunity and emphasize the importance of the dispatch of volunteers that has been announced for the holy day of 15 Sha'ban [14 April 1987, the supposed anniversary of the birthday of the Hidden Imam]. God willing, by mobilizing all our forces on that day, we will deliver our definitive blows against the regime of Saddam at a time when it is at its weakest point.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

Communique Issued on Operations
LD071120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, released a communique today, the text of which is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O you the Muslim nation, the selfless and revolutionary nation! In response to the recent atrocities of the Iraqi warmongering regime's attacks on our country's installations and economic resources in the Persian Gulf and its disturbing security in this region's waters, the mighty combatants of Islam and the zealous sons of you, the selfless nation, this morning launched the "Karbala'-8" operations with the sacred codename Ha Sahaba al-Zamman, in the sector east of Basra.

In the course of these operations, the mighty forces of Islam, by relying on the undiminishing divine succour, by applying the most advanced combat tactics, and by observing the principle of surprising the enemy, succeeded in passing through barbed wire, minefields, and various obstacles, and penetrated 2 kilometers deep inside positions of the Zionist enemy in the eastern area of Fish Lake. The warriors of Islam advanced toward the Dual Canal and captured some new positions.

During these successful operations, the First, Second, and Fourth Battalions of the enemy's 47th Brigade were destroyed by 80 percent; and the 106th, 418th, and 65th Brigades of the Special Force, and the 29th and 117th Brigades of the Iraqi Fifth Division were destroyed by 40 to 60 percent and their troops were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner by the warriors of Islam.

In the course of the victorious "Karbala'-8" operations, our mighty combatants succeeded in killing or wounding more than 2,600 enemy troops. A number of the enemy troops were also captured and so far 95 have been take behind the battlelines. Our forces also destroyed 23 enemy tanks and personnel carriers and captured intact dozens of tanks, personnel carriers, and light and heavy vehicles.

Thanks to the intense fire of the combatants of Islam, this morning an Iraqi intruding plane that intended to attack our positions was downed. The warriors of Islam are now consolidating and strengthening their positions east of Basra, and by pounding the enemy positions with their heavy fire, are not giving the enemy any chance to move or redeploy troops. There is no assistance but from Almighty God.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Communique 2,799: Defense Lines Hit
LD071532 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters in eight separate missions heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites and defence lines in the "Karbala'-8" operational theater east of Basra Tuesday. The fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on Iraqi troops.

Announcing the above here Tuesday, Joint Staff Communique Number 2,799 said that an Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire over the Persian Gulf at 06:32 GMT Tuesday.

In the northwestern and western fronts Monday, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions and supply routes, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying parts of their supply routes.

One heavy Iraqi military vehicle was destroyed and two enemy munitions dumps set ablaze in a western theater by Iranian artillery fire on Monday.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Majnun Islands and Bubiyan where an Iraqi patrol convoy was hit by Iranian artillery fire and forced to flee while suffering several casualties.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected three cargo ships and oil tankers, sailing under foreign flags, in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspicious cargo on board.

Downed Iraqi Warplane French Mirage
LD071806 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 07 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA — The intruding Iraqi warplane downed in "Karbala'-8" operational region Tuesday morning, was a French-made Mirage.

The plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants west of the Fish Lake, where Iranian forces launched their "Karbala'-8" offensive early Tuesday. So far no report is yet available on the fate of the plane's pilot.

Iraqi Penetration Attempt Foiled

LD080811 Tehran IRNA in English 0806 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 8, IRNA — An attempt by regrouped Iraqi troops to penetrate positions of Muslim forces of Iran was foiled Tuesday night, paralysing the enemy from embarking on any action, an operational commander told IRNA Wednesday.

Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and damage, and were forced to retreat to their previous positions, the commander said, adding that 25 Iraqis were captured and transferred behind war fronts increasing the number of processed Iraqi POW's to 120.

He said that the Muslim combatants have achieved all their predetermined objectives in this stage of the ongoing "Karbala'-8" operations.

At present west of the Fish Canal is under the full control of Muslim forces and Iranian combatants by stabilizing captured positions, are carefully checking all enemy movements, the commander said.

The commander added that "Karbala'-8" operations dealt a deadly blow on the Iraqi enemy to an extent that it was forced to send reinforcements from the Second and Fourth Corps to the operational region but they too were shattered by the thrust of Muslim forces.

'Fresh Attack' Carried Out 8 Apr

NC080452 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Our correspondent at the front has reported that the combatants of Islam carried out a fresh attack this morning against defensive positions of the forces of the Iraqi regime in east Basra and dealt new blows to the Saddamists. In this pitiless attack, the Islamic combatants destroyed a large quantity of the Zionist enemy's equipment west of the Fish Lake toward (Azwichiyah) Canal, and killed or wounded and captured hundreds of infidel Saddamists. Among those captured was an infantry lieutenant colonel.

Positions 'Stabilized'

LD080821 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] "Karbala'-8" Operational Region, April 8, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran stabilized their positions in the "Karbala'-8" operational theater, launched early Tuesday, and inflicted heavy additional losses on the Iraqi troops in men and equipment, Wednesday morning.

A large amount of Iraqi armoured and infantry equipment were set ablaze, tens of their troops were killed or injured and scores of others captured, including a second colonel, battalion commander of Brigade 29.

Heavy artillery fire of Muslim combatants of Iran destroyed parts of Iraqi armoured equipment and a number of tanks and personnel carriers were seized intact which were used against the enemy in the operational theater.

Iraqi Claims of 2 Downed F-5's Denied

LD080946 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — An informed Iranian military source categorically denied here Wednesday Iraqi claims of having downed two Iranian F-5 fighters.

Speaking to IRNA he said that an Iraqi military spokesman in a Wednesday announcement had claimed tht the two planes were downed Tuesday in "Karbala'-8" operational region, east of Basra.

Spread of such fabricated claims by the Baghdad regime is nothing new, and it aims at boosting whatever is left of the morale of the remainder of Iraqi military personnel, the source added.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi military spokesman in his interview with the Iraqi news agency made no reference to the downing of an Iraqi fighter in "Karbala'-8" operational region Tuesday.

Claims That Basra Shelled Denied

LD081019 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA — Iran Wednesday categorically denied Tuesday's claims of the Baghdad regime that it shelled the Iraqi port city of Basra.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) referring to alleged shelling of Basra which Iraq claimed in its Military Communique No 2,631, said that while fighting was continuing between Muslim forces of Iran and Iraqi troops near Basra, not a single bullet of Muslim combatants had been fired on Basra.

"Iraqi claims are mere lies", the spokesman said, adding that Iraqi allegations on the shelling of Basra after the halt in the bombardment of Iranian cities by the Iraqi regime "are completely baseless."

IRGC, Iraqi Kurds' Infiltration Operation Viewed

LD072231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] During operations over the past few days designed to infiltrate the Iraqi city of Al-Sulaymaniyah, the Peshmergas of the Patriotic Front killed a group of mercenaries of the Iraqi Zionist, Ba'thist regime. According to a report from the Ramadan headquarters, the center of irregular operations by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, 10 men of the Iraqi Zionist, Ba'thist Party forces and of the law and order forces in the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah were captured by the Peshmergas during these operations. Among the captives is Rashid Naf', an old member of the city's Ba'th Party who was recently awarded the order of so-called courage by Saddam.

According to this report, a group of forces of the Zionist enemy on the [word indistinct]-Mosul highway were ambushed by the Peshmergas.

In the course of the operation, 10 Iraqi Zionist, Ba'thist mercenaries were killed and an additional number were captured. Quantities of arms and ammunition, as well as two military vehicles, were captured as booty by the Peshmergas.

IRGC Forces 'Several' Iraqi Gunboats To Flee

LD061641 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 06 Apr 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 6, IRNA — Coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) forced several Iraqi gunboats to flee from the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway Sunday night. Meanwhile, artillery fire of the Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions and strongholds in "Val-Fajr-8" operational region destroyed two tanks, four group bunkers, and a loader, killing a number of enemy soldiers.

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